

The Council's Vision:

To enable people to live, work and prosper in West Somerset

WEST SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 24 April 2013 at 4.30 pm

Council Chamber, Williton

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 27 March 2013 to be approved and signed as a correct record – **SEE ATTACHED.**

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive and record any declarations of interest in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

4. Public Participation

The Chairman to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public wishing to speak at this meeting there are a few points you might like to note.

A three-minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue. There will be no further opportunity for comment at a later stage. Your comments should be addressed to the Chairman and any ruling made by the Chair is not open to discussion. If a response is needed it will be given either orally at the meeting or a written reply made within five working days of the meeting.

5. Chairman's Announcements

6. Hinkley Point C – Project Update

To consider Report No. WSC nn/13, to be presented by Andrew Goodchild, Planning Manager – **SEE ATTACHED.**

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the Hinkley Point C project, especially in light of the decision by the Secretary of State on 19th March 2013 to grant a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the main power station development at Hinkley Point. The report focuses on the changes that have occurred since the close of the Examination last summer and the role of the Council going forward. This update report sits alongside the report on Democratic Roles and Responsibilities, which is next on this agenda.

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7. Hinkley Point C – Democratic Roles and Responsibilities

To consider Report No. WSC 50/13, to be presented by Councillor S J Pugsley, Lead Member for Executive Support and Democracy – **SEE ATTACHED**.

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with clarity over the respective roles and responsibilities of West Somerset Council's democratic committee's regarding the development at Hinkley Point C. It also seeks where appropriate to make changes to the Council's constitution where those are necessary as a result of the project. It is important to recognise that the respective roles do change between the Site Preparation Works (SPW) which West Somerset Council approved in January 2012 and the Main Development Consent Order (DCO) which was approved on 19 March 2013 – the report seeks to identify the distinction between the two.

8. East Wharf, Watchet – Future Development Options

To consider Report No. WSC 57/13, to be presented by Councillor D Sanders, Lead Member for Economic Regeneration and Tourism – **TO FOLLOW**.

The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the current position concerning the proposed development of the East Wharf, Watchet and seek approval of the recommended approach for moving the development forward.

9. Commissioning of Property Consultants – Appointment of Project Team

To consider Report No. WSC 55/13, to be presented by Councillor T Taylor, Leader of Council – **SEE ATTACHED**.

The purpose of the report is for the Council to appoint three Members to serve on the Project Team with the Chief Executive to oversee the disposal of the following Council owned under used assets:

- former Aquasplash site, Minehead
- former leisure site as part of New Horizons on Seaward Way, Minehead
- former Visitor Information and Interpretation Centre, Minehead

10. Member Reporting on Membership of Outside Body for Information

- Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Committee by Councillor G S Dowding – **SEE ATTACHED**
- Police and Crime Panel Report by Councillor G S Dowding – **SEE ATTACHED**
- Exmoor National Park Authority by Councilor T Taylor – **SEE ATTACHED**
- Somerset Play Forum by Councillor E May – **SEE ATTACHED**
- Somerset Passenger Transport Forum by Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew – **SEE ATTACHED**
- Engage West Somerset by Councilor D Westcott – **SEE ATTACHED**
- Minehead EYE Community Interest Company by Councillor D Westcott – **SEE ATTACHED**

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11. Minutes and Notes for Information

Notes and minutes relating to this item can be found on the Council's website using the following links:

- Draft notes of the Exmoor Area Panel held on 7 March 2013
<http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Council---Democracy/Council-Meetings/Exmoor-Area-Panel/Exmoor-Area-Panel---7-March-2013>
- Draft notes of the Minehead Area Panel held on 13 March 2013
<http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Council---Democracy/Council-Meetings/Minehead-Area-Panel/Minehead-Area-Panel---13-March-2013>
- Draft notes of the Watchet, Williton and Quantocks Area Panel held on 19 March 2013
<http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Council---Democracy/Council-Meetings/Watchet,-Williton-and-Quantock-Area-Panel/Watchet,-Williton--Quantocks-Area-Panel---19-Marc>

COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED TO CHECK THEIR POST TRAYS

The Council's Corporate Priorities:

- Local Democracy:
Securing local democracy and accountability in West Somerset, based in West Somerset, elected by the people of West Somerset and responsible to the people of West Somerset.
- New Nuclear Development at Hinkley Point
Maximising opportunities for West Somerset communities and businesses to benefit from the development whilst protecting local communities and the environment.

The Council's Core Values:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Fairness
- Trust

RISK SCORING MATRIX

Report writers score risks in reports uses the scoring matrix below

Risk Scoring Matrix

Likelihood	5	Almost Certain	Low (5)	Medium (10)	High (15)	Very High (20)	Very High (25)
	4	Likely	Low (4)	Medium (8)	Medium (12)	High (16)	Very High (20)
	3	Possible	Low (3)	Low (6)	Medium (9)	Medium (12)	High (15)
	2	Unlikely	Low (2)	Low (4)	Low (6)	Medium (8)	Medium (10)
	1	Rare	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	Low (5)
			1	2	3	4	5
			Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Impact							

Likelihood of risk occurring	Indicator	Description (chance of occurrence)
1. Very Unlikely	May occur in exceptional circumstances	< 10%
2. Slight	Is unlikely to, but could occur at some time	10 – 25%
3. Feasible	Fairly likely to occur at same time	25 – 50%
4. Likely	Likely to occur within the next 1-2 years, or occurs occasionally	50 – 75%
5. Very Likely	Regular occurrence (daily / weekly / monthly)	> 75%

- Mitigating actions for high ('High' or above) scoring risks are to be reflected in Service Plans, managed by the Group Manager and implemented by Service Lead Officers;
- Lower scoring risks will either be accepted with no mitigating actions or included in work plans with appropriate mitigating actions that are managed by Service Lead Officers.

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL**Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 March 2013 at 4.30 pm****in the Council Chamber, Williton****Present:**

Councillor D D Ross Chairman
Councillor A F Knight..... Vice-Chairman

Councillor A M Chick	Councillor M J Chilcott
Councillor H J W Davies	Councillor M O A Dewdney
Councillor S Y Goss	Councillor P N Grierson
Councillor A P Hadley	Councillor B Heywood
Councillor K V Kravis	Councillor R P Lillis
Councillor E May	Councillor I R Melhuish
Councillor K M Mills	Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor S J Pugsley	Councillor D J Sanders
Councillor L W Smith	Councillor M A Smith
Councillor T Taylor	Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew
Councillor K H Turner	Councillor D J Westcott

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive (A Dyer)
Corporate Director (B Lang)
Section 151 Officer (S Campbell)
Corporate Manager Housing, Welfare and Economy (I Timms)
Planning Manager (A Goodchild)
Economic Regeneration & Tourism Manager (C Matthews)
Planning Officer (K Taylor)
Major Projects Manager (J Holbrook)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

C115 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G S Dowding, J Freeman, C Morgan and K J Ross.

C116 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor A F Knight be appointed Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

C117 Minutes

(Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 20 February 2013 and 27 February 2013, circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED (1) that, subject to the addition of the following to the first bullet point of Minute No. C104 "...and that it was not in a priority of its

own.", the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20 February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

RESOLVED (2) that the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 27 February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

C118 Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

Name	Minute No.	Member of	Action Taken
Cllr S Y Goss	All	Quantock Vale	Spoke and voted
Cllr P N Grierson	All	Minehead	Spoke and voted
Cllr P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Cllr L W Smith	All	Minehead	Spoke and voted
Cllr A H Trollope-Bellew	All	Somerset County	Spoke and voted
Cllr K H Turner	All	Brendon Hills	Spoke and voted
Cllr D J Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted

In addition, the following interests were declared:

Name	Minute No.	Description of interest	Personal or Prejudicial or Disclosable Pecuniary	Action Taken
Cllr A M Chick	C1	Has tenants who claim housing benefit	Personal	Did not speak or vote

C119 Public Participation

No members of the public had requested to participate during the meeting.

C120 Chairman's Announcements

3/3/2013	Attended the Somerset County Council Civic Service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Taunton
5/3/2013	Attended the Bath and North East Somerset Civic Reception at the Roman Baths and Pump Room, Bath
15/3/2013	Attended the South Somerset Civic Reception at the Octagon Theatre, Yeovil
17/3/2013	Attended the High Sheriff's Legal Service at Wells Cathedral

In addition, the Chairman thanked Councillor P Murphy for his assistance in delivering the framed photographs of the Watchet Town Council

presentation to George Reeder and Tanya Allen who saved the life of baby Sam Cooper-Stevens.

C121 Policy for Charging for Pre-Application Planning Advice

(Report No. WSC 39/13, circulated with the Agenda, and Appendix A distributed prior to the Meeting.)

The purpose of the report was to seek Council approval following informal discussions at the Corporate PAG and Cabinet for a policy change to introduce charges for providing pre-application advice on planning proposals.

The Planning Manager introduced the report and advised that the concept of charging for pre-planning application advice had been considered for some time within the planning team. Research had been undertaken to look at the various charging schemes in the south west which revealed that there was no standard approach to charging. Therefore a scheme had been designed around West Somerset, particularly taking into account the nature of the types of applications that were dealt with on a day to day basis. Members were informed that a consultation meeting had been held with the Council's Agents Panel and there was no opposition to the principle of charging for pre-application planning advice. Further to concerns regarding officer capacity to deliver the scheme, the Planning Manager reported that a vacancy for a planning officer would soon be advertised locally.

The recommendations in the report were proposed and seconded.

It was proposed by Councillor T Taylor and seconded by Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew that the 'Type 1 Minor Developments' and 'Type 2 Minor Developments' columns within Appendix A to the report be amended to read:

'Type 1 Minor Developments: 1-4 Dwellings / up to 499m² of commercial use / sites up to 0.1Ha

Type 2 Minor Developments: 5-9 Dwellings / 500-999m² of commercial use / isolated homes in the countryside or rural workers dwellings / sites more than 0.1Ha but less than 2.5Ha'

The reason for the amendment was to remove the affordable housing distinction between villages and towns, thereby introducing equality between the different sizes of settlements.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

Other points of discussion included:

- third party enquiries from the general public would not be charged – the scheme would only charge members of the public proposing forms of development, i.e. the point up to when a planning application was submitted;

- the planning team were thanked for the work undertaken in devising the scheme; and
- the review of the policy in December 2013 was felt to be appropriate as it linked in with the Council's annual review of fees and charges and it was thought that there would be enough data to identify a trend.

RESOLVED (1) that the introduction of a policy to charge for providing pre-application advice in accordance with the charging schedule, set out in Appendix A as amended, be approved.

RESOLVED (2) that an assessment regarding the implications of the new policy, effects on planning decisions and the overall quality of planning applications, as well as a cost analysis, be reported to Cabinet in December 2013.

C122 Additional Council Tax Rebate Discretionary Scheme

(Report No. WSC 41/13, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to agree the policy for the Additional Council Tax Rebate discretionary scheme.

The Lead Member for Community and Customer presented the report who proposed the recommendation in the report which was duly seconded by Councillor K H Turner.

On consideration of the report the following points were raised:

- genuine hardship was not taken into account in allowable expenses relating to council tax;
- concern was expressed regarding the size of the fund;
- the discretionary scheme would be kept under review as a matter of course and Members would be kept updated as to how it was being used, and if the fund was spent early on a report would be presented to Council; and
- the Corporate Manager Housing, Welfare and Economy confirmed that a review of the expenditure would be incorporated and monitored in the service planning process.

RESOLVED that the policy for the Additional Council Tax Rebate discretionary scheme, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved.

C123 Discretionary Housing Payments Scheme

(Report No. WSC 42/13, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to inform Council of the proposed policy for Discretionary Housing Payments Scheme.

The Lead Member for Community and Customer presented the report and proposed the recommendation in the report, which was seconded by Councillor M O A Dewdney.

In response to concerns raised the Corporate Manager Housing, Welfare and Economy confirmed that a review of the expenditure of the fund would be incorporated and monitored in the service planning process. He also reassured Members that the Council's policy was to work with claimants to deal with any situations that arose as a result of recent changes to the housing benefit scheme, and requested that Members should inform the housing benefits team if they were aware of specific cases.

RESOLVED that the policy for Discretionary Housing Payments Scheme, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

C124 **Joint Working between West Somerset Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council – Membership of Joint Members Advisory Panel**

(Report No. WSC 35/13, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to agree its membership of the Joint Members Advisory Panel.

The Leader presented the report and advised of the reasons for the Panel and its role and recommended Councillor K Mills and A H Trollope-Bellew as the two other elected West Somerset Council representatives on the Joint Members Advisory Panel. He further advised that the words 'non-Executive' had been deleted from the recommendation contained in the report as it would be Full Council's decision as to who to nominate onto the Panel.

Councillor T Taylor proposed the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor M O A Dewdney.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor M Smith and seconded by Councillor A Hadley that Councillor P H Murphy be nominated as one of the Council's representative on the Panel.

On being put to a vote the amendment was LOST.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Support together with the Shadow Portfolio Holder be confirmed as representatives on the Joint Members Advisory Panel together two other Members, namely Councillors K Mills and A H Trollope-Bellew.

C125 **Proposed Revisions to the Council's Constitution**

(Report No. WSC 36/13, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to consider agreeing proposed revisions to the West Somerset Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED that the proposed updates and revisions to the Constitution of West Somerset Council as outlined in the report be approved.

C126 **Treasury Management Strategy Statement, MRP Policy and Annual Investment Strategy 2013-14**

(Report No. WSC 48/13, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to inform Council of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Policy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2012-2013 in line with the CLG's Guidance on Local Government Investments ("the Guidance") and the 2011 revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes ("the CIPFA TM Code").

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report and drew Members' attention to the Section 151 Officer comments which reflected the Council's lack of capital monies and capital finance requirement and the impact of this on the minimum revenue provision, stressing the need to sell assets in 2013/14.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation set out in the report, which was duly seconded by Councillor K M Mills.

During the debate, Members requested clarification on a number of issues concerning credit default swaps, officer training and a more detailed breakdown of year-end balances for resources.

RESOLVED that the combined Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Policy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2013-2014, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.

C127 **Hinkley Point C: Economic Development Allocation**

(Report No. WSC 46/13, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to present to Members the recommendations of the Hinkley Point Planning Obligations Board (POB) and to approve the attached Economic Development Paper (Appendix A to the report) to release this allocation of funds.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report and advised that this was to be the first of many similar reports which would be presented to Council in the future relating to the Hinkley project. She reported that part of the section 106 monies for the Hinkley Point C preparatory works had been allocated to an economic fund for West Somerset Council to help mitigate the impact of the Hinkley development, benefitting businesses in West Somerset. It was confirmed that both the Planning Obligations Board and the Economic and Regeneration PAG had given approval and were fully supportive of the proposals.

The Lead Member was pleased to report that the Council was maximising the section 106 contributions by obtaining extra match funding. The point was also made that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity and WSC had to take advantage and make the most of the money for the people of West Somerset – Members were advised that there were leaflets that could be publically distributed advising on how to benefit.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation in the report, which was duly seconded by Councillor D J Sanders.

During the debate the following main points were raised:

- The need for a business database was essential.
- An update on the very successful Facilities Management Conference held in February was given by the Economic Regeneration & Tourism Manager.
- There was a need for more measurable clear targets and it was noted that Project 1 had to commence in order to do the research to establish targets.
- The Council was in the process of setting up a comprehensive performance management system for the Hinkley project that would interlink with the existing performance management framework.

RESOLVED that the proposals contained within Appendix A to the report to allow for the release of allocated funds be approved.

C128 Standards Advisory Committee

(Minutes of the Standards Advisory Committee held on 5 March 2013, circulated with the Agenda.)

The Monitoring Officer reported that the recommendations contained a proposal for his post to be granted delegated authority to deal with Councillor applications for dispensation if timescales did not permit him to be able to consult with the Standards Advisory Committee.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Standards Advisory Committee held on 5 March 2013 be adopted.

The meeting closed at 6.07 pm.

Report Number: WSC 58/13
Presented by: Andrew Goodchild, Planning Manager
Author of the Report: Andrew Goodchild, Planning Manager
Contact Details:
 Tel. No. Direct Line 01984 635245
 Email: agoodchild@westsomerset.gov.uk

Report to a Meeting of: Council
To be Held on: 24th April 2013
Date Entered on Executive Forward Plan N/A
Or Agreement for Urgency Granted:

HINKLEY POINT C – PROJECT UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to provide Members with an update on the Hinkley Point C project, especially in light of the decision by the Secretary of State on 19th March 2013 to grant a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the main power station development at Hinkley Point. The report focuses on the changes that have occurred since the close of the Examination last summer and the role of the Council going forward. This update report sits alongside the report on Democratic Roles and Responsibilities, which is next on this agenda.

2. CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 There are a wide range of Hinkley related Key Tasks that sit within the Corporate Plan 2013/16 and the Councils four Service Plans for 2013. Members may recall that most of the significant payments for the Site Preparation Works are linked to the commencement of the main earthworks (Phase 2) and that many of the Key Tasks for next year can only be delivered once payments have been received.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members note the content of the update

4. RISK ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Risk Matrix

Description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall
That the Council is not prepared for and does not understand the work associated with discharging its responsibilities as part of the Hinkley Point C development	Unlikely (2)	Major (4)	Medium (8)
<i>That the Council understands the changes made and has prepared plans set out in its Corporate Plan and Service Plans to discharge its responsibilities</i>	Rare (1)	Major (4)	Low (4)

The scoring of the risks identified in the above table has been based on the scoring matrix. Each risk has been assessed and scored both before the mitigation measures have been actioned and after they have.

5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 5.1 Members will recall that the Examination into the Development Consent Order (DCO) finished in September 2012. Since then the Panel of Inspectors made a recommendation to the Secretary of State in December 2012 and a decision on the DCO had to be made before (and was made) on the 19th March 2013. The DCO includes a range of Requirements (akin to planning conditions) relating to the various sites that were included in the main application including the Main Site, the On Site Campus and the Williton Park and Ride.
- 5.2 In September, at the close of the Examination, the Council and EDF Energy had reached 'common ground' on the vast majority of issues and had signed a Section 106 Agreement. However, given the level of input from a range of organisations during the Examination the 'Requirements' were always likely to be changed as a result of the Panel of Inspectors report, containing their recommendation to the Secretary of State and the final decision. This report is designed to provide Members with a summary of the Inspectors Report, the changes to the DCO made by the Inspectors and the Secretary of State since September and to provide a flavour of the work to come over the next 6-12 months.

Summary of the Inspectors Report

- 5.3 The Inspectors Report, which ultimately recommended to the Secretary of State that the DCO should be granted is 325 pages long. It is broken down into nine sections with 5 Appendices covering points including the 'Legal and Policy Context', the 'Habitats Regulation Assessment', the 'Panel's Conclusions on the Case for Development and the 'Request for Compulsory Acquisition Powers'. This report will focus on three of the most relevant sections namely:
- The Main Matters – Findings and Conclusions (where these relate to West Somerset)
 - The Proposed Development Consent Order and s106 Agreement
 - Overall Conclusions and Recommendation
- 5.4 A copy of the Inspectors Report, the Secretary of States decision, a list of the final Requirements and the details of the Section 106 agreement can be found by following these links:
- <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-west/hinkley-point-c-new-nuclear-power-station/?ipcsection=overview>
- and
- <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-west/hinkley-point-c-new-nuclear-power-station/?ipcsection=folder>
- 5.5 In terms of the main matters – findings and conclusions it is worth noting that the list of principle issues includes 'Stogursey' which Members will recall was not the case at the Preliminary Hearing in March 2012, it could be concluded that the Councils representations at the Preliminary Hearing and in writing before that meeting highlighting that omission positively influenced the shape of the Examination. The section on Stogursey particularly made reference to the effect the proposal would have on the living conditions of nearby residents.

5.6 Other principal issues were:

- Traffic and Transport Matters, including particularly the effect that traffic generated by the proposal during construction would have on the highway network serving the site.
- Socio-Economic Effects, including particularly the effects the proposal would have on jobs and skills, businesses, tourism, the local housing market, public services and the communities affected by the proposal.
- Landscape and Visual Effects, including particularly the effect the proposal would have on the landscape, the Quantock Hills AONB and the appropriateness of the mitigation proposed.
- Combwich, including particularly the effect the proposal would have on the living conditions of nearby residents; and
- Cannington, including particularly the effect that traffic generated by the proposal would have on the living conditions of residents of Cannington.

Other Matters that were of particular importance to the examination, which the Panel identified, were:

- Air Safety
- Biodiversity
- Bridgwater
- Bridgwater A and C Accommodation Campuses
- Bridgwater Bay Wildfowlers Association
- Climate Change
- Code of Construction Practice
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP)
- Grid Connection
- Historic Environment
- Holford Valley Infilling – Flood Risk Considerations
- Human Rights
- Junction 23 Associated Development Site
- Junction 24 Associated Development Site
- Safety
- Williton Park and Ride Site

Main Matters

5.7 ***Parish of Stogursey*** - The Panel considered the following principal issues in relation to Stogursey and these can best be summarised as follows:

- Noise
- Accommodation Campus
- Public Right of Way (PROW) Network
- Flood Risk
- Emergency Access Road

5.7 The Panel stated “there is no doubt in our minds that the host parish of Stogursey would be on the ‘front line’ in terms of the effects stemming from the proposal”. They considered that HPC would have a significant effect on life, particularly in those parts of the parish of Stogursey closest to the site. At times, the levels of noise would be increased and traffic volumes would increase significantly on the C182.

5.8 The view of the Panel was that the combination of specific compensation and mitigation measures for communities living near the site that are secured by requirements, together

with the further mitigation secured by the Section 106 legal agreement and the two voluntary support schemes (Noise Insulation Scheme and a Property Price Support Scheme), would go some considerable way to provide mitigation for the losses that the community would suffer.

- 5.9 *Noise* - One of the principal concerns during the examination last year was the proposal for 24/7 working and the impact that this would have on background noise levels. A requirement (MS9) has been included in the Development Consent Order (DCO) to control Construction Noise. The Panel considered that the total ban of night time activity requested by some at the Examination would not be necessary given the noise limits as provided by the Construction Noise requirement. This is further reinforced by the reduction in certain activities as provided by Requirement MS10.
- 5.10 The Panel noted that the submitted Environmental Statement predicted that nighttime operational levels would not be an issue and existing noise levels support this. However, they recommended that an additional Requirement be included to limit operational noise between 23:00 and 07:00 (Requirement MS12).
- 5.11 *Accommodation Campus* - In relation to the Accommodation Campus, the Panel considered that it was appropriately situated given the impacts associated with its operation mitigated both by distance and the landform (including the earth embankment to the south of the accommodation buildings).
- 5.12 As part of the examination process, the Panel asked the Applicant to provide further evidence as to why the campus is the size proposed. The Panel did not find the answer from the Applicant to be wholly convincing, as it appeared to the Panel that the mix and distribution of site workers could be adjusted accordingly. However, the Panel considered that one of the key questions was whether the operational and other benefits of having construction workers on site outweigh the negative impacts (population dynamics, social cohesion and impact on local services etc). The Panel concluded that whilst the campus may have some negative impacts, it would also bring significant benefits in terms of serving the construction process. It was considered that the proposed size struck a sensible balance.
- 5.13 *Public Right of Way (PROW) Network* - The Panel made reference to the closure of the entire Public Right of Way within the construction site boundary that has already taken place, as part of the preliminary works contract. Once the works are complete it would be possible to reduce the secure area to that of the operational power station and restore a network of ProW through the new landscaped areas that would be created to the west and south of the operational power station. The Panel recognised that the alterations to the network has a significant impact on those that use them and the importance to the local community of the network for regular, recreational use.
- 5.14 The Panel concluded that, in the short term, the loss of ProW would be significant. In the longer term, when construction is complete and the new paths have been provided, the losses would be less significant albeit that, in their view, they would continue to outweigh the gains.
- 5.15 *Flood Risk* - A number of representations were received expressing concern about flood risk. A number of interested parties maintained that the DCO should not be made because of the safety implications of flooding at a nuclear site. However, these safety matters fall within the remit of the Nuclear Regulators. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has not identified flood risk as a factor that should prevent the grant of a nuclear site license for the proposed power station. The Panel therefore concluded that they had not reason to reach a different view. (It should be noted that a site licence was issued by the ONR in early 2013).

- 5.16 The proposed infilling of the Holford Valley would aggravate the flood risk to properties outside the Hinkley Point C Site in the Stolford area by marginally increasing the level to which water would rise in an extreme flood event. Mitigation would be provided through the Section 106 legal agreement, by means of a financial contribution to the Stolford Area Flood Fund. However the Panel also included an additional DCO Requirement (P12) requiring a flood risk management strategy, as proposed by the Environment Agency.
- 5.17 Emergency Access Road - Whilst the design of the emergency access road and Bum Brook Bridge has not been finalised, many people argued that the illustrative plans provided with the application indicated that the bridge would be too large. The Panel considered the bridge's core purpose (i.e. to carry vehicles in the event of an emergency and that given that Bum Brook is subject to flooding then this will be factored into its final design). The final design of the bridge would be subject to approval by the Council (Requirement MS22: Bridge).
- 5.18 **Traffic and Transportation Matters** - The Panel considered it was appropriate to manage demand on the highway network via proposals to control the number, routing and timing of HGV's travelling to the site. These along with highway improvements and proposals to encourage water borne transport were all included within the application and the panel could therefore find no reason to criticise the proposed transport strategy and that it was considered to be in general accordance with Central Government policy.
- 5.19 The Panel considered that the traffic models for the development are realistic and err towards a worst-case situation. It was considered that the evidence was such that the proposed junction improvements and other measures secured by requirements and obligations would be such that substantial impacts on the surrounding network would be avoided. The Panel could find no evidence that additional traffic on the C182 would result in delays at junctions leading onto this road.
- 5.20 The Panel noted that the Claylands Corner junction suffered from poor visibility and that if the proposal went ahead then traffic on the C182 would increase significantly. Whilst the DCO provided for mitigation works (these are confined to the works that have taken place within highway land) and although they would improve the junction it would remain substandard. The Panel concluded that no further works are justified, as whilst they were not clear if the improvements balanced out the potential increased traffic but had concluded that they had no evidence to conclude it would not.
- 5.21 The Panel accepted that some damage will occur to the A39 and C182 but noted that the Section 106 legal agreement contained provision that HGV routes would be regularly monitored and to make good any damage
- 5.22 During the course of the examination, concerns were raised regarding the impact that buses destined for the site would have on Stogursey given the nature of the roads. Controls secured through the Section 106 legal agreement require that buses not picking up in Stogursey would be routed along A39 and C182. The Panel noted that there are no restrictions to prevent buses using routes through the village and welcomed the further restrictions proposed in that buses going through Stogursey being no larger than 15 seaters. The Panel concluded that there was no need for further restrictions and that this commitment has been displayed through the agreement of the Traffic Incident Management Plan (TIMP).
- 5.24 **Socio-Economic Effects** - At the examination last year, the Panel sought to establish whether delays to the construction programme would result in different environmental effects. The Panel accepted the applicant's explanation that the socio-economic assessments that had been carried out for the DCO was based on construction months rather than specific dates and assessed the impact of construction activity at the peak of

construction and therefore a change to the timing of this peak would not materially alter the assessment.

- 5.25 The Panel were also satisfied with the content of the Environmental Statement and concluded that it provides a robust assessment of the socio economic issues but notes that the proposals will have a significant impact on the socio-economic well being of the area.
- 5.26 The Supply Chain Engagement Strategy (SCES) confirms that the policy for the construction of HPC would be to use as far as possible, local sources of labour, local service providers and local materials/components and that this policy would be reflected in contract tender documents and instructions.
- 5.27 The Section 106 legal agreement includes funds to employ Economic Development officers in each of the joint Councils (West Somerset Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council) and funding towards the establishment of low carbon cluster and business support initiatives.
- 5.28 A Construction Workforce Development Strategy (CWDS) was submitted as part of the DCO application and the aim of this strategy is to address the gap between the current skills of the workforce and those required by the project. The strategy contains a number of initiatives that would increase provision of appropriate training opportunities, enable increased access to jobs for local workers at HPC and provide new and enhanced educational facilities.
- 5.29 It was noted by the Panel that, in general, interested parties agreed that the impact of HPC on the local tourism industry during operation would be minimal. However, the impact on tourism during construction remained a major concern. The Panel concluded that the adequacy of the transport proposals would be significant to ensure that whilst there would be some increase in congestion before junction improvements, this would not be severe. The Panel did not consider that tourism would suffer from the impacts of severe traffic congestion due to the range of mitigation measures proposed including Tourism Officers and Marketing and Promotional activities.
- 5.30 During the Examination, concerns were raised that construction workforce would take up all available tourist accommodation during the peak season and thus deprive visitors to the area. However this did not convince the panel for three main reasons:
- Price of tourist accommodation varies throughout the year and therefore increased prices would deter workers looking for accommodation during peak season;
 - Mismatch in the type of accommodation offered – i.e. workforce predominantly single males whereas much tourism accommodation is family orientated.
 - Locations chosen would be restricted to those easily accessible to the park and ride network or to bus routes to the main site.

The Panel therefore concluded that there is unlikely to be a significant impact on the availability of accommodation.

- 5.31 In relation to the Temporary Accommodation Campus on the main site, the Panel noted that they could not determine whether the size of the on-site is optimal and that they had no evidence to suggest that the size of the campus was incorrect. Therefore they concluded that the proposed size struck “a sensible balance” between the needs of the construction activity and the impacts on the local community. This issue is further explored in the

Stogursey section. The Panel considered that the provision of campuses is an appropriate response to help mitigate impacts of a large influx of construction workers.

- 5.32 ***Landscape and Visual Effects*** - The Panel considered that this issue of 'Landscape' was of fundamental importance given the surrounding national designations. A key question for the Panel was whether the existing landscape could accommodate a third power station. Whilst they noted that the proposed power station would have an inevitable impact on the character and appearance of the area given the scale of what is proposed. They highlighted that whilst National Policy Statement EN-1 acknowledges that all Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP's) will have an effect on the landscape and that they may be visible from designated areas, this should not in itself be a reason to refuse.
- 5.33 The Panel considered that the area had already accommodated two stations which provided an important precedent and context for considering the impact. They concluded that the overall scale and design of HPC would be of similar magnitude to the existing power stations and that once operational this could be accommodated without causing significant permanent harm to the landscape quality and character of the area.
- 5.34 It was noted that the construction of HPC would have adverse impacts on landscape (due to the size of buildings and physical construction area including loss of many landscape elements) but that on balance the adverse impacts would lessen as the site reduces to its final operational size and the mitigation measures mature.
- 5.35 In relation to visual effects, the panel considered that any visual impact had been clearly represented within the Environmental Statement. Concerns were raised by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) in relation to the turbine halls being imposing within the landscape. However they noted that in this instance, function had taken precedent over form. The Panel also noted comments from the Quantock Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Service who considered that the visual impact of the proposed station had been underestimated in certain views. The Panel concluded that HPC would alter the character of some views but overall would not be overwhelmingly detrimental. It was considered inevitable that given the scale of the works required, a significant visual impact would occur. However, the landscaping measures proposed would help reduce the visual impact, alongside the benefits realised from advance landscape planting.
- 5.36 The Panel concluded that the principles of good design have been followed by the Applicant in determining the functionality and aesthetics of the proposed power station and no reason for design to weigh against the determination of the DCO.

The Proposed Development Consent Order and s106 Agreement

- 5.37 A draft list of requirements (conditions) and a draft Section 106 legal agreement was agreed between the joint Councils (West Somerset Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council) and EDF in the Examination last year (August 2012). The Section 106 has not changed from the version agreed at the end of the Examination period and considered at Cabinet in September 2012. The Major Projects Team has carried out an initial review of the requirements (that form part of the Development Consent Order (DCO)) and in a number of instances there have been minor changes to wording, predominately to address issues of cross referencing, typographical errors etc. However, this initial review has concluded that substantial changes to the wording of draft requirements, or the inclusion of additional requirements has been limited. The section below highlights some of the key changes from the draft requirements agreed at the end of the Examination period last year. Reference to new and amended requirements relating to the main site have also been discussed in the Stogursey section above.

- 5.38 **Requirements** - Members may be interested to know that a requirement for a Sports Facilities Management Strategy (PW12) has been amended to ensure that at least 4 hours of public access at weekends (at a charge comparable with similar facilities) is provided at the main site accommodation campus.
- 5.39 New requirements (PW23 and PW24) have been included for the main site and all associated development sites within the District for the 'disposal of dredged material' and 'use of infill materials'.
- 5.40 On the main site, a new requirement (P12: Flood Risk Management Strategy) has been included at the request of the Environment Agency seeking the submission of a Flood Risk Management Strategy. This would be submitted to and approved by the Council (in consultation with the Environment Agency).
- 5.41 Requirements MS9 (Construction Noise) and MS11 (Noise Monitoring Scheme) have been amended to ensure that a scheme for notifying local residents is submitted to and approved by the Council before increased (isolated) noise thresholds are applied. These details would need to include notice and the duration of the increased threshold. The requirements also make reference to providing details of the contingency measures to be taken if the noise limits specified are exceeded.
- 5.42 A new requirement has been included on the Main Site (MS38: Use of Adjacent Land) to address an issue originally raised by the Council within the Examination last year. This additional requirement ensures that adjacent land to the main site cannot be used for any temporary buildings, works, plant or construction machinery etc required for the development.
- 5.43 Whilst noting that these proposals are outside of the District, it is considered beneficial to make members aware of a significant change regarding the timing/commencement of the Combwich Wharf and Cannington Bypass works. The Panel recommended that work on the Combwich freight terminal should not start until after the Cannington bypass is available for use. The intention of which was to reduce the avoidable traffic impacts on Cannington. However, the SoS considered this was unduly restrictive and would delay the construction of the Combwich facility. Therefore the SoS has amended the Panels Requirement (C7: Freight Laydown Facility).
- 5.44 The Section 106 legal agreement includes a wide range of measures to mitigate the impacts on local residents. In particular Annex 12 of the Section 106 legal agreement details measures, which seek to minimise the volume of freight traffic, associated with the construction of HPC and its associated development and their impacts on local residents. However, the Secretary of State was of the opinion that these measures could be improved by introducing a further requirement (PW9: HGV Traffic) into the order which would allow local residents to easily identify HGV's associated with the HPC development and to report any failure by their drivers to adhere to the approved mitigation measures.
- 5.45 **Legal Challenge relating to the Development Consent Order** - Under Section 118 of the Planning Act 2008, an Order granting development consent can be challenged by a claim for judicial review. A claim for judicial review can be made to the High Court during the period of six weeks from the date when the Order is published (19th March). For information, the period for a person/body to challenge therefore expires on Tuesday 30th April. For clarity, it is officers firm belief that the Council should not seek to make any challenge to the decision of the SoS.

Overall Conclusion

- 5.46 In light of the strong national policy support in favour of a positive decision, the fact that the DCO has received consent is not surprising. The Panel and Secretary of State would have

needed to conclude that local impacts outweighed the urgent need for energy investment set out in Government policy.

- 5.47 The tone of the Panel's comments regarding Stogursey is unusual for an Inspectors Report and goes to demonstrate the level of impact the project will have in the community and that comments made by the Council, Parish Council and community representatives during the Examination were taken very seriously. The Panel and Secretary of State did not make any significant changes to the Requirements covering communities in Stogursey as important changes were made towards the end of the Examination following representations at the Issue Specific Hearings and during detailed discussion between the Council and EDF Energy. Importantly measures and controls agreed have not been unpicked by either the Panels recommendation or the Secretary of State,
- 5.48 Given that an independent assessment of impact is now in the public domain following representations made by Councils, Parish and Town Councils and representatives of local communities, it will be important for the Council to reflect back on the issues raised within the Panels report when it comes to compiling proposals to seek funding and particularly to assist communities in West Somerset to compile bids towards Community Impact Mitigation and Community Fund contributions. The Panels conclusions regarding Stogursey Parish will need to be borne in mind when considering CIM bids when geographic restrictions are lifted on future Annual payments are made.
- 5.49 Over the next 6 months, the key decisions will be in the hands of EDF Energy and the Government about whether or not the project will begin in earnest. The Council can continue with its existing programme of activities set out in the Corporate Plan to ensure that the Council and our communities are best placed if and when the main works begin. EDF Energy are expected to make a number of submissions to the Planning Team to discharge some of the early planning Requirements – proposals to deal with decision making regarding these submissions are made in the Democratic Roles and Responsibilities paper on this agenda.

6. FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no additional financial or resource implications from this report. Finance and resources to deal with additional work as a result of the project were set out in the Cabinet report regarding the Section 106 agreement considered in September 2012. Fees for the discharge of Requirements are not significant but will supplement staff resources and technical resources to undertake this work.

7. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS

- 7.1 The section 151 officer has read this report and has no comment to make.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Members need to demonstrate that they have consciously thought about the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty as part of the decision making process.

The three aims the authority **must** have due regard for:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

- 8.1 The Councils input into the Hinkley Point project have been careful to take account of the equality and diversity implications of the project. While this report does not have any direct

implications as it is a summary of key points from the Panels report and the Secretary of States decision, it will be important to consider the equality and diversity implications as and when the project is implemented and decisions regarding funding are made.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct implications.

10. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct implications.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct implications.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no direct implications.

13. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no direct implications.

Report Number: WSC 50/13
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Report to a Meeting of: Council
To be Held on: 24th April 2013
Date Entered on Executive Forward Plan Or Agreement for Urgency Granted: N/A

HINKLEY POINT C – DEMOCRATIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with clarity over the respective roles and responsibilities of West Somerset Councils democratic Committee's regarding the development at Hinkley Point C. It also seeks where appropriate to make changes to the Councils constitution where those are necessary as a result of the project. It is important to recognise that the respective roles do change between the Site Preparation Works (SPW) which West Somerset Council approved in January 2012 and the Main Development Consent Order (DCO) which was approved on the 19th March 2013 – the report seeks to identify the distinction between the two.
- 1.2 The roles and responsibilities of the Councils various Committees has been raised by both Officers and Members in recent months and to ensure that all Members have the opportunity to understand the reasoning and approach to this issue.

2. CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 There are a wide range of Hinkley related Key Tasks which sit within the Corporate Plan 2013/16 and the Councils four Service Plans for 2013. Whilst this report will not contribute directly to achieving any of the Tasks and Actions within the Plans it does provide clarity about which Committees will monitor progress against the Priorities, Tasks and Actions.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Council notes the content of the report and particularly the various roles and responsibilities for each of the democratic Committees.
- 3.2 That the roles and responsibilities of the bodies referred to in paragraphs 5.12 to 5.29 are included in the Council's Constitution.

4. **RISK ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

Risk Matrix

Description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall
That the Council fails to observe its obligations set out in the Hinkley Point C Section 106 agreement by introducing processes which contradict the approach set out in the legally enforceable agreements	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Medium (12)
<i>That the Council acknowledges the content of this report and understands its role within the Agreements both as the Local Planning Authority and as a signatory to the agreements</i>	Rare (1)	Major (4)	Low (4)
That the Council fails to achieve the performance standards required of it in determining applications to discharge Requirements and is subject to successful claims for costs against it.	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)	Medium (12)
<i>That the Scheme of Delegation for Planning Committee is altered in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report.</i>	Rare (1)	Moderate (3)	Low (3)

The scoring of the risks identified in the above table has been based on the scoring matrix. Each risk has been assessed and scored both before the mitigation measures have been actioned and after they have.

5. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Members will be all too aware that the Council, as Local Planning Authority, granted planning permission for significant earthworks to take place on the Hinkley Point C site in January 2012 following a special Planning Committee in July 2011. This planning permission – known as Site Preparation Works (SPW) – included a range of planning conditions and importantly in the context of this report a Section 106 agreement which sees the payment of a range of financial contributions which will be paid to this Council and some other organisations.
- 5.2 Members will also be aware of the main application – for a Development Consent Order (DCO) – which was submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) in November 2011, and which was Examined by a Panel of Inspectors from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) during the summer of 2012. The Panel of Inspectors made a recommendation to the Secretary of State in December 2012 and a decision on the DCO had to be made before and was made on the 19th March 2013. The DCO includes a range of Requirements (akin to planning conditions) and also includes a separate Section 106 agreement which the Council signed in September 2012.
- 5.3 The details of the Section 106 agreement for Site Preparation Works was considered in detail by Members at Cabinet in December 2011 and then at Full Council in January 2012 – paragraph 5.7 below reminds Members of the key points from that report and decision.
- 5.4 Separately Members of Cabinet considered the detail of the Section 106 agreement for the DCO in September 2012 and resolved not to raise any concern regarding the content of the agreement to the Panel of Inspectors prior to the close of the Examination later that month.
- 5.5 As most Members will be aware a Section 106 agreement contains obligations on both the developer (including the payment of contributions) and the Council (including spending the

contributions on measures responding to the reasons payments were sought). It is very important that in going 'about its business' the Council observes the obligations which it has entered into, as a Section 106 agreement is a legally binding agreement which can be enforced through the courts. Whilst neither of the Hinkley Point C Section 106 agreements seek to fetter the discretion of the Council, they do set out some Governance arrangements which must be observed by all the parties who signed the agreements.

- 5.6 Finally, by way of background, Members will be aware of the cross boundary nature of the project and, whilst the entirety of the Hinkley Point C site resides in West Somerset in the Parish of Stogursey, a range of associated and ancillary facilities are to be located in Sedgemoor District. Clearly there are also a range of matters, most obviously traffic and transport, where Somerset County Council is also heavily involved. Therefore, both Sedgemoor and Somerset County Council are signatories to both Section 106 agreements along with West Somerset Council and EDF Energy.

Key Points from Council decision in January 2012

- 5.7 The report and recommendations agreed by Council in January 2012 relate to the Site Preparation Works Section 106 agreement. Paragraphs 4.9 – 4.16 and Table 1 of that report (set out in full at Appendix A to this report) set out the role of a newly created 'Planning Obligations Board', Cabinet and Council in respect of decision making for contributions.
- 5.8 It is important to recognise that the arrangements of the Board and its clear links to Cabinet and Council are in direct response to the Council's role as the Local Planning Authority who granted consent for that element of the project and, as a result, recommendations of the Board are made only to West Somerset's Cabinet and Council who will decide whether or not to release funding.
- 5.9 It is understood that some Members are rightly keen on understanding the respective roles and responsibilities surrounding the Board and indeed Cabinet and Council decisions. This relationship was the subject of much discussion during negotiations and hence the formal role of the Board, Cabinet and Council is set out in some detail within the Section 106 agreement for SPW. It is important therefore, that despite the obvious level of interest from all parties – here and at other organisations – that the roles set out in the legal agreement are observed.
- 5.10 Paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 of the SPW Section 106 Agreement sets out the legal position in respect of Decision Making and states:
- 5.1 Decisions by the Board shall be made by a majority of votes of the members at a Board meeting convened for that purpose and in the event of an equal number of votes, the Chairman, who currently is a member from this Council, shall have the casting vote.***
- 5.2 No meeting of the Board shall be quorate unless at least one member from each of the nominating organisations are in attendance and each of the organisations shall use Reasonable Endeavors to ensure at least one such member attends each scheduled meeting.***
- 5.3 Decisions and/or recommendations will be made by the Board as governed by the authority ascribed to the Board, with referral to West Somerset Council's Cabinet, and if necessary Council for final approval as required by such authority.***
- 5.11 In light of this and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all West Somerset Council Committees, the following sets out the respective part that each Committee will play. Reference is made to page 55 of the Council's Constitution which sets out the terms of reference for Committees.

Board – Site Preparation Works

- 5.12 The Board will consider reports from the Major Projects Team at West Somerset Council who will determine whether or not bids can be positively considered in light of the criteria set out in the legal agreement.
- 5.13 The Board, made up of two representatives of West Somerset Council, EDF Energy, Somerset County Council and Sedgemoor District Council, is to be chaired by West Somerset Council and will consider bids meeting the necessary criteria and will, on a majority basis, make a recommendation to Cabinet to allocate contributions.

Council – Site Preparation Works

- 5.14 To consider recommendations from Cabinet (which will come from the Board) to allocate contributions for projects seeking funding of over £25,000.
- 5.15 Paragraphs 3.3 of Schedule 2 (Housing); paragraph 3.3 of Schedule 3 (Community Impact Mitigation) and paragraph 4.2 (Economic Development) state that
- “West Somerset Council shall take into account the recommendations of the Board when deciding how to apply the... *respective contribution*”
- 5.16 To consider recommendations from Cabinet (which have not come from the Board) to allocate contributions for projects seeking funding of over £25,000..
- 5.17 To appoint the Council’s representatives to the Planning Obligations Board.

Council - DCO

- 5.18 To consider recommendations from Cabinet (which have come from the internal Planning Obligations Group) to allocate contributions for projects seeking funding of over £25,000.
- 5.19 To appoint the Council’s representative on the Somerset Community Foundation Panel who will consider bids to the EDF Energy Community Fund.

Cabinet – Site Preparation Works

- 5.20 To consider recommendations from the Board and internal Planning Obligations Group to allocate contributions for projects seeking funding of less than £25,000.
- 5.21 To consider for referral to Council recommendations from the Board and internal Planning Obligations Group to allocate contributions for projects seeking funding of over £25,000
- 5.22 To consider quarterly ‘performance’ reports which, have been previously reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee? The Council’s performance will be monitored and measured in respect of:
- Delivery of Key Tasks contained in the Corporate Plan and Service Plans
 - Delivery of commitments set out in the S106 Agreement
 - Delivery of the Communities Priorities
 - Financial Management

In addition the report will contain information on the progress being made by other organisations in delivering their commitments in the S106 that impact upon West Somerset Council.

Cabinet - DCO

- 5.23 To consider recommendations from the internal Planning Obligations Group) to allocate contributions for projects seeking funding of less than £25,000.
- 5.24 To consider quarterly 'performance' reports which, have been previously reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee? The Council's performance will be monitored and measured in respect of:
- Delivery of Key Tasks contained in the Corporate Plan and Service Plans
 - Delivery of commitments set out in the S106 Agreement
 - Delivery of the Communities Priorities
 - Financial Management

In addition the report will contain information on the progress being made by other organisations in delivering their commitments in the S106 that impact upon West Somerset Council.

Scrutiny Committee – Site Preparation Works and DCO

- 5.25 To review quarterly 'performance' reports and refer any comments to Cabinet for their consideration. The Council's performance will be monitored and measured in respect of:
- Delivery of Key Tasks contained in the Corporate Plan and Service Plans
 - Delivery of commitments set out in the S106 Agreement
 - Delivery of the Communities Priorities
 - Financial Management

In addition the report will contain information on the progress being made by other organisations in delivering their commitments in the S106 that impact upon West Somerset Council.

- 5.26 To hear any 'call in' in relation to a final (not a recommendation to Council) decisions made by Cabinet
- 5.27 Where the requirements of the Section 106 agreement and Constitution do not align is decisions taken by Cabinet to allocate contributions less than £25,000 which, in theory could be 'called in' by Scrutiny in normal circumstances. As set out above (paragraph 5.10) the legal agreement for Site Preparation Works requires that, in terms of decision making *...recommendations will be made by the Board... with referral to West Somerset Council's Cabinet for final approval as required by such authority.* (my underlining)
- 5.28 The phrase *final approval* is critical here – it is set out in this way to avoid the situation where another party to the agreement or a third party can seek to overturn or 'veto' a decision of WSC's Cabinet. This of course has to apply in the case of West Somerset as well and so, in the circumstances, it is necessary for the requirements of the Section 106 agreement to prevail and, as such, there can be no opportunity for Scrutiny Committee to 'call in' a decision by Cabinet to allocate contributions under £25,000 relating to Hinkley Point. 'Call in's' will therefore be in relation to the process followed by Cabinet only.

Audit Committee – Site Preparation Works and DCO

- 5.29 To regularly review the effectiveness of overall governance arrangements and receive both internal and external audit reports, including those undertaken by EDF.

Planning Committee – Site Preparation Works and DCO

- 5.30 Planning Committee, since resolving to approve the planning application for Site Preparation Works have no formal governance role, other than Members have actively wanted to understand progress and have requested that regular site visits are undertaken

to monitor on site activity. Planning conditions have been dealt with in the normal way, in that decisions about whether or not to approve material submitted to discharge conditions has been dealt with under delegated powers.

- 5.31 As the DCO requires the Council to consider submissions to discharge Requirements (rather than conditions) it is necessary to seek additional delegated powers to discharge Requirements submitted pursuant to the Planning Act 2008.
- 5.32 Given that the Council is legally required to determine submissions in either 5 or 8 weeks (the vast majority of cases in 5 weeks) this needs to be done under delegated powers. In some cases, especially the more major elements which are 8 week submissions, it maybe deemed appropriate for the matter to be referred to the Planning Committee.
- 5.33 It is recommended that the Scheme of Delegation is amended to read that:

“To determine all applications for planning permission, listed building consent, conservation area consent, advertisement consent and all matters of determination, formal approval or comment of the Council as Local Planning Authority under the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*, *The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* and *The Planning Act 2008* and associated legislation. (Suggested addition shown underlined)

In addition to add under the ‘exceptions to this delegated authority are:’

(i) Applications for Major Requirements which in the opinion of the Planning Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chair of Planning Committee, are deemed to be potentially controversial and likely to be of significant public interest

Hinkley Point C Corporate Working Group (SNEG)

- 5.34 This Members Seminar has been operating on an ad hoc basis over the last 2.5 years. It is intended to maintain the role of the CWG as an informal sounding board and opportunity for key officers and Members to understand current progress.

Somerset Nuclear Energy Group

- 5.35 This relatively informal meeting between Members and Officers of the three key Councils, EDF Energy and other agencies has been operating since 2008. Its role is to be maintained as an informal sounding board and opportunity for key officers and Members to understand current progress and receive updates from other parties.

6. FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications from this report as it is intended to clarify rather than change roles and responsibilities.

7. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS

- 7.1 [Click here and type text]

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Members need to demonstrate that they have consciously thought about the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty as part of the decision making process.

The three aims the authority **must** have due regard for:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

8.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications from this report as it is intended to clarify rather than change roles and responsibilities.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications from this report as it is intended to clarify rather than change roles and responsibilities.

10. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct consultation implications from this report as it is intended to clarify rather than change roles and responsibilities.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct asset management implications from this report as it is intended to clarify rather than change roles and responsibilities.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no direct environmental impact implications from this report as it is intended to clarify rather than change roles and responsibilities.

13. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no direct legal implications from this report as it is intended to clarify rather than change roles and responsibilities. It is necessary to maintain alignment between the legal agreements and the Councils Constitution on this project wherever possible to ensure that the Council complies with its obligations.

Report Number: WSC 55/13
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Report to a Meeting of: Council
To be Held on: 24 April 2013
Date Entered on Executive Forward Plan n/a
Or Agreement for Urgency Granted:

APPOINTMENT OF PROPERTY CONSULTANTS – MEMBERSHIP OF PROJECT TEAM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Council to appoint three Members to serve on the Project Team with the Chief Executive to oversee the disposal of the following Council owned under used assets:
- former Aquasplash site, Minehead
 - former leisure site as part of New Horizons on Seaward Way, Minehead
 - former Visitor Information and Interpretation Centre, Minehead

2. CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 Whilst not directly itemised in the corporate objectives, the proper disposal of Council assets to underpin the financial viability of the Council is an important element supporting the corporate priority of securing local democracy and accountability in West Somerset, based in West Somerset, elected by the people of West Somerset and responsible to the people of West Somerset.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Support together with two Members to be appointed at the meeting, and suggested to be one from each of the two political groups, serve with the Chief Executive on a project team overseeing the disposal of the following council owned under used assets:
- former Aquasplash site, Minehead
 - former leisure site as part of New Horizons on Seaward Way, Minehead
 - former Visitor Information and Interpretation Centre, Minehead

4. RISK ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Risk Matrix

Description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall
That the project in question does not conform with current governance arrangements	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Medium (12)

<i>The establishment of an overseeing project team in accordance with Financial Regulations</i>	Low (1)	Major (4)	Low (4)
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The scoring of the risks identified in the above table has been based on the scoring matrix. Each risk has been assessed and scored both before the mitigation measures have been actioned and after they have.

5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 5.1 At the meeting of Cabinet held on 3 April 2013 it was agreed that Bruton Knowles be appointed as property consultants to assist with the disposal of the following council owned under used assets:
- former Aquasplash site, Minehead
 - former leisure site as part of New Horizons on Seaward Way, Minehead
 - former Visitor Information and Interpretation Centre, Minehead
- 5.2 Financial Regulation 6(7) requires that for every contract that may cost over £50,000, an overseeing project team consisting of appropriate councillors and officers to be established from the outset of a project to monitor and oversee the project and make reports to Council.
- 5.3 The Cabinet also, therefore, agreed that an appropriate project team be established consisting of the Chief Executive and three elected Members to be appointed by Council.
- 5.4 A similar project team was established to oversee the sale of the housing land at Seaward Way, Minehead and the three elected Members in this instance consisted of the appropriate portfolio holder together with one Member each from the two political groups.
- 5.5 In this instance it is recommended that Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Support, Councillor K Kravis, be appointed together with two other Members, one from each political group, to be appointed at the Council meeting.

6. FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no additional financial/resource implications in regard to this report other than officer/member time will need to be devoted to being members of the project team. The financial/resource implications of the project itself were detailed in the report to Cabinet on 3 April 2013, reference WSC 28/13.

7. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS

- 7.1 It is essential that Council adheres to the relevant requirements of current Financial Regulations in Contract Standing Orders to ensure the proper governance of this project and the establishment of an appropriate overseeing project team is an important element of meeting current requirements.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Members need to demonstrate that they have consciously thought about the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty as part of the decision making process.

The three aims the authority **must** have due regard for:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

8.1 There are no implications directly associated with the recommendations in this report.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no implications directly associated with the recommendations in this report.

10. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no implications directly associated with the recommendations in this report.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Visitor Information and Interpretation Centre is still classed as an operational asset whilst the other two land assets referred to in this report are both classed as being held for investment.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no implications directly associated with the recommendations in this report.

13. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no implications directly associated with the recommendations in this report.

Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Committee 2012 / 2013

This committee was set up by the Prime Minister and Somerset's committee was formally empowered at Yeovilton in February 2012.

The purpose of the committee is to ensure that there is close cooperation between the armed forces and civilian personnel.

The Local Authority involvement is to enable these closer links and to remove stupid anomalies whereby a serviceman on active service is considered to have made themselves voluntarily homeless while in say Afghanistan.

West Somerset Council held its now traditional muster on Armed Forces day in June 2012 with, among others, veterans of the Burma Star Association, Personnel from The Rifles and representatives from The Royal British Legion.

I have attended number of sessions with our local units.

The Rifles held a briefing in Taunton in summer 2012 and gave details of Operation Herrick (Oct 11 to May 12). This is part of the UK's Hearts and Minds operation in Afghanistan working with the local police and create an atmosphere of trust with the indigenous population. A hard dangerous but necessary task for the 5th battalion.

Commander Paul Bristowe, Captain of HMS Somerset also gave a briefing and a "ships bottom" tour while she was in refit in Devonport (a day when one would have been drier even in a full dry dock than outside).

We learnt of Operation Kipion which was deployed East of Suez tasked to keep world shipping lanes open from the action of small hostage taking pirates who will stop at nothing, least of all a 100,000 tonne tanker. The RN usually ended up by destroying all their armaments and craft and then releasing the pirates rather than summary execution by blowing them and their craft out of the water!

I was privileged to be asked to join the Burma Star Association for their Memorial service in Minehead in August along with other WSC members. It was very moving to see these, now very few, old men standing out in what must have been for them typical monsoon rain honouring their absent friends.

Armistice day musters were held at local churches but regrettably these were not as coordinated as they might have been and some camaraderie was lost.

In February 13 a small group of us met with the Chairman of Somerset County Council and Commander Mike Smith the new captain of HMS Somerset. He spoke of his and the MOD's desire for especially "County class" Frigates to have a closer association with their county thus he wished to promote the best of Somerset when overseas.

A small victory for West Somerset in particular and the Covenant Committee in general was to see, as a result of a motion in Council and an extra Press push, local

resident Peter Baker receive his enormously well deserved Arctic Star medal for which he and his comrades had waited 70 years.

WSC are holding Armed Forces day on Monday June 24 2013 and look forward to welcoming a large contingent of servicemen, ex servicemen and civilians (and WSC staff and members).

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Police and Crime Panel report 2012 / 2013

This newly formed body has met informally on a number of occasions to constitute itself and on 5 occasions as a Panel (PCP).

The role of the panel is that of a Scrutiny committee and a critical friend.

The panel (18 members) is politically and geographically proportionately balanced with a Conservative chairman and 3 Independent members.

West Somerset actually only technically qualifies for 0.5 members so we have greater representation than the rest!

The Panel has advisory powers and no input at all into the Operational issues of Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Since the PCP covers all of Avon and Somerset it is inevitable that much of the panel's focus is on urban Bristol and BANES. The inner city problems of these areas consume a disproportionate amount of police effort. However if they are not correctly policed then there is a potential for more *away day* criminals visiting Western Somerset.

The Panel's first task was to ratify the appointment of Sue Mountstevens as the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

There was a flurry of activity when one of her first tasks was to inform Colin Port, the then Chief Constable that he need to reapply for his post. He then resigned claiming constructive dismissal but lost his case in the High Court.

After scrutiny of the list of potential candidates an interview took place with Nick Gargan and the PCP was able, unanimously, to approve the PCC's appointment of Nick Gargan as the new Chief Constable.

The 4th meeting was a Budget and Precept scrutiny which produced a split vote 5 / 11 (not on party lines) to reject the PCC's budget.

The PCC had campaigned on a frozen budget and the vote at the PCP was for an increase (I voted for the frozen budget).

Because the meeting was not fully quorate under the rules laid down by the Home Office the PCP could only ask her to reconsider the budget. This she duly undertook but upset the panel by returning within 30 minutes with her considered response not to change her stance. In my opinion a reasonable, if over hasty, response since she had made an election pledge not to raise the precept!

The new PCC visited the whole area in a series of consultative visits with members of the public including Minehead on 30th Jan 2013.

The last meeting of the electoral year was to review the Police and Crime Plan which the PCC had prepared.

It also considered any formal complaints raised which is part of the PCP function. One concerning the process of Colin Port's resignation was discussed and admin points were addressed but the complaint in general was rejected.

No real surprises for West Somerset. The new Chief Constable is in favour of PCSO's and the plan acknowledges the problems which will be experienced at Hinkley Point.

The plan also covers antisocial behaviour and youth crime, domestic and sexual violence, burglary and putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system. Rural crime is highlighted and the needs of tourism. The proposed Badger cull will need special consideration.

The Panel is bound to experience teething problems but on the whole all the parties (PCC, PCP, Chief Constable) are working well together.

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Exmoor National Park Authority

ENPA is adapting to budget cuts and trying to maintain its core functions with less money (aren't we all).

In general members and officers work very well together---there is something of a family atmosphere.

Planning seems to go well in general, though there is some concern, possibly unfounded, about vested interests, which we have to be careful to dispel. As you know I would like to see closer integration of WSC and ENPA planning departments.

ENPA is a well-run authority as judged by external inspectors. It is efficient in carrying-out national park purposes and has some exciting environmental and landscape projects in progress. It is an honour to represent WSC on the ENPA. I attend regularly not just the monthly meetings but also some voluntary groups and visits, mainly to do with pre-history, natural history and landscape.

Councillor Tim Taylor



Somerset Play Forum

SOMERSET PLAY FORUM NETWORK MEETING

22 January 2013

Tangier Scout and Guide HQ, Castle Street, Taunton, TA1 4AS

MINUTES

1. Present: Sarah Love (SCC), Fiona Moir (NHS), Mike King (Sedgemoor Learning Alliance), Robert Parr (SSDC), Steve Barnes (SSDC), Lucy Davies (Taunton Women's Aid), Kayleigh Stenson (Taunton Women's Aid), Lisa Hunt (Taunton Scrapstore), Louise Kennedy (Woodland Play Centre), Sally Thomas (Somerset Centre Integrated Learning- SCIL), Edward May (West Somerset District Council), Kristen Lambert (Knightstone Housing Assoc), Rachel Gathercole (Bridgwater College) Hannah Aitken (SPF Development Worker)

Apologies: Jan Ross, Leonie Labistour. Heather Beaver, Kathy Morton, Sarah Madge, Helen Johns.

2. Minutes & Matters arising:

Returns from successful grant recipients needed. Important that the grant monitoring form is sent back ASAP as they will be used in tender for new funding bid.

Louise will send photos

Sarah Love to update on 'Include Me Too' training.

3. Speaker:

Sarah Love & Fiona Moir gave a presentation on the

Background to the Somerset Play Forum (SPF), a brief history from its beginnings (1998?) hosted by Somerset County Council (SCC); becoming an independent charity in 2003 with support and hosting from Barnardos; National Lottery funding in 2006 raising the profile of Play & the establishment of Somerset Children & Young Peoples Partnership; SPF running projects to enhance playspaces, consult with children, support programme of Playrangers; organise a Play conference and support others to organize Playdays. However with funding cuts in 2010 Barnardos was no longer able to host SPF.

2013- position today- Somerset Play Forum remains an independent registered charity with a Management committee and Trustees. Activities have reduced to network meetings and small funding stream.

2 part time play development workers have been employed (Abby Clark & Hannah Aitken) with funds provided from SCC and Tone Leisure hosting the posts and providing line management through Alison Cottey, employee of Tone Leisure and Trustee of SPF.

4. Discussion- The State of Play

The current SPF aims as stated on website (<http://www.somersetplay.org.uk>) were discussed, followed by a discussion in small groups as to what members wanted from the SPF and how it could develop.

(See discussion notes attached)

The main points arising from the discussion:

Somerset Play Forum is/could be

- a wonderful & useful opportunity for ALL those involved in play to come together at network meetings, meet others and share best practice, problems and experiences.

- A great place to develop partnership working
- A conduit of Play related information - News, Training, Events, Members directory
- Provider of funding opportunities for play projects
- Provider of Play training/awareness courses.
- A champion for FREE PLAY
- Involve a wider network eg housing associations working in the community

5. Funding bids- Play Development workers to use evidence from discussion in developing funding bids to support SPF and its work.

6. Somerset Play Celebration

- Date & venue: April 24th 2013 at Huish Woods, West Hatch, Taunton, TA3 5RH.
- Workshops: these are being discussed, anyone who would like to offer a short workshop please contact Abby (<mailto:a.clark@toneleisure.com>) or Hannah (<mailto:h.aitken@toneleisure.com>) Workshops will need to have an outdoor play focus as indoor venues at Huish woods are limited.

It was noted that we could ask the Scouts if they have any marquees available

- Nominations for Playworker awards:
- A great way to value the hard work & dedication of playworkers, and highlight the importance of play. More details coming soon, but please start thinking of any playworkers you know who deliver excellent or outstanding work, who you could nominate for an award.

7. Round the Table- any other information sharing

Lisa Hunt- Taunton Scrapstore opening shortly- further details to follow- working in agreement with CLOWNS & Yeovil Scrapstore

Ed May- WDSC- use 106 planning contribution to fund play equipment

Louise Kennedy- Woodland Play centre new website up & running!

<http://www.woodlandplaycentre.co.uk/>

Rachel Gathercole- Bridgwater College is offering a Forest School Leader Advanced Award at Paignton, Devon, available at reduced cost- was £825 now £500 (see attached flyer)

Robb Parr- SSDC- Yeovil Scrapstore has now moved from Garrett rd to Old Museum nr Octagon Theatre.

Hannah Aitken- delivers 'Forest Family Fun' Family Learning courses (parents supporting their children's play) in Foundation stage settings, funded by Somerset Skills & Learning, FREE to settings, need a minimum of 9 parents to sign up. Contact Denise Dyer for more details: Denise Dyer, Foundation Development Worker, Somerset Skills and Learning 01935 410555, dcdyer@somerset.gov.uk

Micheal Hammond- Barnardos- (former Chair) has been in touch and would like to keep involved with SPF.

Discussion notes from Network meeting 22/1/13

Existing play opportunities in your work, what do you want from the Play Forum, what changes to Network Meetings: venue, frequency, content, promoting the Forum:

- Mike King, Eileen Coombes – Somerset Children’s University (Bridgwater)
- Sedgemoor learning alliance (group of schools in South Sedgemoor) – holiday play schemes
- KayleighStenson – Taunton’s woman’s aid Grass Roots organisation working with vulnerable children – they have a play worker and a children’s support worker, funded by Children in need and Comic Relief. Provides support for those suffering from domestic abuse. Regular support sessions for 0-5 and 5-11 in refuges, looking to move more into the community. Looking for funding opportunities to take our specialised work to other places. Promote importance of working with vulnerable children to the Forum. To find out more about play in our area and different agencies charities, to create networking to see what opportunities are available for play training and play worker opportunities. Partnership working.
- Rob Parr – SSDC Play officer – Active play areas programme, support to youth clubs, community holiday play schemes, support advice for grants. Holiday activities Yeovil. Work in partnership with Yarlinton housing group, organise a national play day in Yeovil. Happy to host a network meeting, should move around county and time of day to suit attendees. Forum to support play training.
- Kristen Lambert – Knightstone Housing Association – South Somerset. Supporting the set up of street play projects. Training adults and making links with children’s centres. Bigger play and family events.
- Bridgwater college – Provide forest school training (see info in update)
- Taunton’s woman’s aid – Play sessions for up to 25 year olds. One to One in refuge. Support resettlement and out reach work.
- SSDC – play schemes support, grants of £100 to community play days/schemes. Play activities at 2 Yeovil venues for 8 weeks. Training offered, first aid, child protection and food hygiene. Play activities supported by Yeovil Town Council.
- SPF could create links to other housing providers.
- Eddie May - District counsellor in Wiliton, Sally Thomas play training provider at SCIL, Louise Kennedy environmental play worker:
- WSDC supports play in their district through grants to CLOWNS, Minehead home start, funds to sports clubs, supports parish councils for play equipment and areas through planning 106 money
- The presentation used today could be a valuable promotional tool if made available to members
- Sally provides DPW at SCIL
- Louise at Woodland Play Centre – Level 3 playing with the elements and take 5
- Hannah delivers short courses for early years at SCIL

- Hannah also delivers family learning courses in foundation stage settings
- What should play forum offer:
- Better opportunities for forum members to disseminate knowledge they gain at regional or national events
- Invite housing associations to access play forum
- Meetings 3x a year and a celebration is good. Context needs to vary, be energetic and forward thinking, venues around county e.g Yeovil and Street areas
- Play forum could offer in partnership with other providers, training e.g play worker CPD and awareness raising
- Create a bank of casual/freelance play workers and put it on the website
- Divide in playwork provision between play for plays sake and learning through play in Ofsted settings. Does the play value remain high?
- Forum needs to reach out to groups and be the voice of play and playwork as there is no one else out there!
- Diverse skills base, wide variety of attendees, round the table updates available on the web and mailouts to all. A calendar of events on website. Magna/Sommerfield housing association.
- Yarlinton housing association bought Yeovil play bus – what news? Follow up needed
- More providers represented – how?
- Face to face practitioners – CLOWNS run play schemes in Minehead area. Woodland Play Centre at Crowcombe in Quantocks. 1610 Play Scheme Hestercombe. Tone Leisure Holiday Camps, play, sports, crafts wraparound care. Out of school clubs on and off school sites
- Job opportunities on website
- Placements for students – links to colleges and play providers
- Guidance for playworkers on the ground.

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Somerset Passenger Transport Forum

Only one meeting was held this year which I attended accompanied by Cllr Karen Mills.

A rumour that First Bus was pulling out of Somerset could not be confirmed or denied as First were not represented.

Discussions centered, as usual, around buses in South Somerset and the new Great Western rail franchise, which has subsequently been put on hold.

Karen raised problems with competing bus services in her ward.

The next meeting was due to be held on 11 April 2013 but has been cancelled due to the county council election. When I know the date of the next meeting I will circulate you all. Please come back to me with any problems with public or passenger transport in your wards.

Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew

ENGAGE WEST SOMERSET

The 2012/2013 year has been one of continuing and growing despite the effects of financial cutbacks and a continuing precarious financial situation. Engage started the financial year knowing that they had sufficient funds to keep running for at least another year, including have sufficient reserves to wind up the Charity should this be necessary.

The Volunteer Bureau and local charities' support work has continued despite not having funding for a dedicated paid Volunteer Centre manager. With the help of new volunteers, the existing part-time staff set up a membership scheme for local charities which for a £10 year subscriptions give access to a number of resources and the quarterly Voluntary Sector Forum meeting have seen an increase in attendance. Additionally a number of local charities have been assisted with seeking funding, developing policies and recruiting volunteers for their day-to-day organisation and running.

The Furniture Store which is the main income provider for Engage has continued to flourish with increased donations and sales, including the setting up of a Gift Aid scheme for applicable donations. During the year the van which is used for collecting and delivering furniture had to be replaced and funding for this was secured from a number of sources including LARC, Somerset Community Foundation and local charity Restore Hope West Somerset. The Furniture Store has slightly exceeded its target income for this year and has extended its opening hours with the help of an increasing number of volunteer workers.

Three new Trustees were appointed this year, including a much needed Treasurer. A Business Plan Sub-Group and Finance Sub-Group have been established and the website has been revised and updated. During the year Engage has actively promoted its work at local events and venues.

The four part-time paid staff, growing number of volunteers at Engage's premises in Alcombe worked hard this year to keep the Charity running. However, life is still precarious and although it looks as if Engage will continue for another year no certainty beyond that time can be visualised at present.

ILLR. DAVE WESTCOTT

Minehead EYE Community Interest Company

Finance is one major problem for Minehead EYE, although there is improvement from last years large deficit. This year the deficit had been reduced to under £3,000 at the end of March. The taking on of the local Youth Club leaders management and, hopefully, a new Bouldering Wall will increase their income and should bring them into credit next year.

Besides the building being used for Skateboarding and BMX and a general youth club, a wide range of activities are organised for specific age groups and genders. i.e. Diddy Dudes for under 7's, girls only nights, birthday parties, roller discos, conferences, meals for the elderly and music workshops.

Cllr Dave Westcott